

For Information Contact Public Affairs WYN HORNBUCKLE Telephone: (602) 514-7625

Cell: (602) 525-2681

## MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRANSPORTING ALIENS RESULTING IN DEATH

PHOENIX -- Humberto Limas-Arreola, 28, a citizen of Mexico, pleaded guilty to Transportation of Illegal Aliens Resulting in Death, in federal district court in Phoenix.

Humberto Limas-Arreola had been charged with two counts of Transporting Illegal Aliens. On March 16, 2006, near Yuma, Arizona, the defendant was driving a Chevrolet Suburban with 19 illegal aliens when he failed to stop at an immigration checkpoint on Interstate 8. The defendant failed to yield to the emergency lights and sirens of Border Patrol agents following him. Border Patrol agents continued to follow the defendant at a safe distance for 16 miles. While driving on Interstate 8, the defendant made two U-turns across the median before again heading west on Interstate 8. Border Patrol agents deployed a tire deflation device to attempt to stop the vehicle. The defendant swerved to avoid the tire deflation device, then over-corrected the vehicle. The vehicle rolled twice into the median. Flora Carrillo-Carmona was a passenger in the vehicle and was not wearing a seatbelt at the time of the rollover. She was ejected from the vehicle and died from injuries sustained during the rollover.

A conviction for Transporting Illegal Aliens Resulting in Death carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Earl Carroll will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Sentencing is set before Judge Carroll on November 20, 2006.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. Border Patrol, and the Arizona Department of Public Safety. The prosecution is being handled by Raynette Logan and Tracey Bardorf, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0322-PHX-EHC RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-178(Limas-Arreola)